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MEMORANDUM

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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ACTION

February 6, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MR. KISSINGER

FROM:

JOHN H. HOLDRIDGE

W.H. Jr.

SUBJECT:

Report to the President on
Cease-fire Developments

Attached at Tab A is a memorandum from you to the President on
cease-fire developments in South Vietnam and the current situation
in Laos and Cambodia as of 4:30 p.m. EST February 6, 1973.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab A.

Attachment

NSS, NSA, Army reviews completed

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THE WHITE HOUSE

INFORMATION

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER
SUBJECT: Ceasefire Developments
(February 6-4:30 EST)

The following is a report on current ceasefire developments in South Vietnam and on the present situation in Laos and Cambodia. This report includes information received from State, Defense and CIA as of 4:30 p.m. EST February 5, 1973.

Vietnam

Military

- Military activity continued to diminish country-wide.
- MR I was relatively quiet.
- The lowest level of military activity since the ceasefire began was experienced in the key MR II province of Binh Dinh.
- Elsewhere in MR II, the enemy continued to keep key roads closed in some areas producing a critical rice shortage in Kontum and a shortage of gasoline in the capital of Lam Dong Province.
- In MR III, the enemy, while reasonably quiet, is still initiating limited and scattered contacts.
- In MR IV, military activity picked up slightly and officials there are estimating this will continue at least until the ICCS and FPJMC are in place.
- Intercepted messages continue to show that main force enemy units in most areas are under orders to restrict their military activity to what is needed to counter government efforts to move against Communist-held territory.

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POWs

-- The PRG announced they will release 27 U.S. and 1,000 ARVN POWs on February 12, 1973. Also the DRV indicated it would provide information on the date and numbers of U.S. POWs to be released. These details will be available on February 7, 1973.

4-Party Joint Military Commission

-- At the FPJMC Chiefs of Delegation meeting in Saigon on February 5, the PRG proposed that the two South Vietnamese parties begin consultations February 6 on the establishment of the Two-Party Commission.

ICCS

-- An ICCS delegation, attempting a visit by road to Quang Tri City on February 6 was forced back by incoming artillery fire eight miles south of its destination. Communist artillery was probably responsible for this attack.

Political

-- The campaign inaugurated in November 1972 to prepare the people mentally and psychologically for a ceasefire has now gone into its second phase with the return to the field of some 10,000 military cadets mobilized as information cadre.

Laos

-- Vice President Agnew has reported that his talks with Souvanna were substantive and useful.

-- Local press comment on Vice President Agnew reflected none of the earlier concern that Lao interests were being overlooked.

-- The NVA appears to be preparing to increase pressure on the government forces in central and south Laos. Since late last year, the North Vietnamese have at least doubled the number of troops in southern Laos.

Cambodia

-- The general strike in Phnom Penh reported in the international press is over.

-- Enemy-initiated combat incidents continue at a low level.

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